

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6632

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SOCI, SP, VT

SUBJECT: GOS-VATICAN NEGOTIATIONS ON CONCORDAT

REF MADRID 6490

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ-RODO NOV 12, I REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONCORDAT ATTENDANT ON THE VISIT TO MADRID OF MSGR. CASAROLI. LOPEZ-RODO RESPONDED THAT THE POSITIONS OF THE VATICAN AND THE GOS WERE MUCH CLOSER THAN APPEARED FROM THE PRESS REPORTS.

2. ON JULY 4, LOPEZ RODO SAID, HE SENT A LETTER TO THE PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE, CARDINAL VILLOT, SUGGESTING THAT THE GOS AND VATICAN START DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONCORDAT. HOWEVER, SINCE HE DID NOT WANT TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS START THAT MIGHT END UP IN PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT OR FAILURE, HE SET FORTH SEVEN POINTS TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE VATICAN. HE RECEIVED A REPLY ON SEPTEMBER 20 WHICH ACCEPTED THE SEVEN POINTS, AFTER WHICH MSGR. CASAROLI WAS SENT TO MADRID WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO STAY AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO REACH AGREEMENT. AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS, LASTING FIFTEEN HOURS, LOPEZ-RODO FELT THAT GREAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE.

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3. WHEN I NOTED THAT SOME SPANISH PRIESTS HAD LOCKED
THEMSELVES IN A BISHOP'S OFFICE APPARENTLY TO PROTEST THESE
NEGOTIATIONS, LOPEZ-RODO SAID THEY DO NOT WANT A CONCORDAT
BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT A CONCORDAT IMPLIES SUPPORT BY THE
CHURCH OF THE PRESENT SPANISH GOVERNMENT. ASKED WHETHER
THE OPPONENTS WERE WILLING TO GIVE UP ALL THE SUPPORT GIVEN
TO THE CHURCH BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT, LOPEZ-RODO
SAID OF COURSE NOT. THEY WANTED, AS WAS SAID IN SPAIN,
THE "LAW OF THE FUNNEL" TO BE APPLIED, THAT IS
"THE WIDE PART FOR ME AND THE NARROW PART FOR YOU."
RIVERO

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